

REMARKS

I. Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 26-34, 36-44, 46-70, 73-75, and 79-84 were pending and under examination in the instant application.

Claim 79 has been canceled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of this claim in a related patent application.

Upon entry of the instant amendment to the claims, claims 26-34, 36-44, 46-70, 73-75, and 80-84 will be pending in this application.

II. Response to Restriction Requirement:

The Examiner required restriction to one of the following inventions pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121:

Group I: Claims 26-31, 54-58, 67-70 and 83, drawn to a method for preventing or treating disease in a patient comprising reactivating the thymus, wherein the disease is caused by a virus, classified in class 424, subclass 93.1.

Group II: Claims 26-31, 54-55, 59-61, 67-70 and 83, drawn to a method for preventing or treating disease in a patient comprising reactivating the thymus, wherein the disease is caused by a bacterium, classified in class 424, subclass 93.1.

Group III: Claims 26-31, 54-55, 62-64, 67-70 and 83, drawn to a method for preventing or treating disease in a patient comprising reactivating the thymus, wherein the disease is caused by a parasite, classified in class 424, subclass 93.1.

Group IV: Claims 26-31, 54-55, 65-70 and 83, drawn to a method for preventing or treating disease in a patient comprising reactivating the thymus, wherein the disease is caused by a fungus, classified in class 424, subclass 93.1.

Group V: Claims 26, 32-34, 36-40, 81 and 83, drawn to a method for preventing or treating a disease in a patient comprising reactivating the thymus and further comprising administering cells to the patient, classified in class 424, subclass 93.1.

Group VI: Claims 26, 41, 48 and 82-83, drawn to a method for preventing or treating a disease in a patient comprising reactivating the thymus wherein the thymus is reactivated by surgical castration, classified in class 128, subclass 1+.

Group VII: Claims 26, 41-44, 46-47 and 82-83, drawn to a method for preventing or treating a disease in a patient comprising reactivating the thymus, wherein the thymus is reactivated by disruption of sex steroid-mediated signaling to the thymus and further comprising administering cells to the patient, classified in class 424, subclass 93.1.

Group VIII: Claims 26, 41, 49 and 82-83, drawn to a method for preventing or treating a disease in a patient comprising reactivating the thymus wherein the thymus is reactivated by chemical castration, classified in class 600, subclass 1+.

Group IX: Claims 26, 41, 50-54 and 82-84, drawn to a method for preventing or treating a disease in a patient comprising reactivating the thymus wherein the thymus is reactivated by a pharmaceutical, classified in class 514, subclass 2+.

Group X: Claims 26-31, 73-75 and 83, drawn to a method for preventing or treating a disease in a patient comprising reactivating the thymus and further comprising administering a cytokine, a growth factor or a combination of a cytokine and a growth factor, classified in class 424, subclass 198.1.

Group XI: Claim 79, drawn to a method for enhancing transplantation of donor hematopoietic stem cell into the thymus of a recipient patient, classified in class 424, subclass 93.1.

Group XII: Claim 80, drawn to a method for increasing virus-specific peripheral T cell responsiveness of a patient with an at least partially atrophied thymus, classified in class 424, subclass 93.1.

Applicants elect **Group VIII, claims 26, 41, 49, and 82-83**, with traverse. Applicant traverses on the grounds that it would not constitute an undue burden for the Examiner to examine at least the claims of Groups VII, VIII and IX together as the search for these Groups is likely to significantly overlap. If the Examiner is not so minded, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner at least examine the claims of Groups VIII and IX.

CONCLUSIONS

Claims 26-34, 36-44, 46-70, 73-75, and 80-84 remain pending in this application.

Applicant petitions for a three-month extension of time to respond to the outstanding Restriction Requirement. Please charge the requisite fees to our Deposit Account No. 08-0219. No additional fees are believed to be due in connection with this correspondence; however, if any fees are due, please charge the requisite fees to our Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

If a telephone interview would advance prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 31, 2007


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